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RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 0458  
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 1141  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 2794  
RUEHSI/AMEMBASSY TBILISI PRIORITY 0346  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 0864  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE PRIORITY 0498

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 001073

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DEPT FOR EUR, DRL, AND IO

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SUBJECT: GEORGIA - POLAND TO TAKE "BALANCED APPROACH" TO  
RUSSIAN GENOCIDE ALLEGATIONS

REF: STATE 98030

Classified By: POLITICAL COUNSELOR DAN SAINZ FOR REASONS 1.4 (B)  
AND (D)

11. (C) Poloffs delivered reftel demarche September 15 to MFA Georgia Desk Officer Tomasz Orlowski. Orlowski said Poland agrees with U.S. views that Russia appears to be pushing harder in international fora on allegations that Georgia committed acts of genocide in South Ossetia during the conflict in August. He called Russia's claims "ridiculous" and said that in the GoP's assessment, there is absolutely no proof of genocide.

12. (C) Notwithstanding the lack of Russian credibility, Orlowski said, Poland plans to adopt a "balanced approach" in responding to Russia's genocide claims. In statements in international fora, Poland will recommend that the matter be referred to international courts and tribunals with which Russia and Georgia are both associated, such as the International Court of Justice. Poloffs pushed back, noting that a "balanced response" to Russian claims should at a minimum include language calling on Russia to uphold its international obligations with respect to the protection of the civilian population in areas that its forces control. Orlowski expressed agreement on this point and undertook to relay U.S. concerns to the MFA's UN and Human Rights Department and to relevant Polish diplomatic missions.

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